

Today's News - Friday, June 17, 2011

- A "chronic problem in Korean architecture" is highlighted by an important cultural project that left the architect out in the cold.
- Not everyone in an Austrian UNESCO World Heritage village is pleased that it is being "Xeroxed" in China (great slide show).
- Davidson dissects the voyeur's paradise rising along the High Line: "These days, it's almost rude not to stare."
- Hadid's Serpentine Sackler Gallery extension gets the go-ahead.
- Tischler on Kéré, who "gets big results by mixing a little mud with a lot of heart" in his home country of Burkina Faso, "one of the poorest places on the planet."
- An impressive, international mix on the shortlist in the Bogotá International Convention Center Competition.
- An eyeful of finalists in RIBA's London and Sheffield Forgotten Spaces competitions (some are really out there!).
- The budding "Redfields to Greenfields" movement is gaining steam across the U.S., turning toxic real estate into parks and elevating nearby property values.
- In the U.K., RICS research advises developers, planners, and landowners to do much the same thing - it's good in combating climate change and good for areas where development has stalled.
- Perhaps London should pay heed: "London: Garden City?" reports that "two and a half Hyde Parks a year" are being lost to paving (how depressing is that?!?).
- Weekend diversions:
- Continuing on a green streak, "GLIMPSES of New York and Amsterdam in 2040" on view in both cities offers 10 glimpses of their urban future.
- In L.A., "New Park Design in Los Angeles" dreams of "a modern remedy to an 81-year-old wrong."
- CCA's "The Good Cause: Architecture of Peace" questions whether architecture and planning projects can be an instrument of peace and conflict prevention.
- Jürgen Mayer H's traveling show "\$H!T HAPPENS In Berlin" (we love the title!) lands in Toronto.
- Rothstein hails "The American Style: Colonial Revival and the Modern Metropolis" at MCNY: "Though this is a small exhibition, there is much to see and think about."
- The Scott Sutherland School of Architecture Show 2011 in Aberdeen highlights a studio where students are not allowed to use computers: "quite a radical idea for a school of architecture in the 21st Century but it has resulted in some beautiful work and drawings and worth seeing."
- Q&A with 2011 LA Film Festival filmmakers of "Unfinished Spaces" that puts the spotlight on three exiled architects who "return to Cuba to finish their Utopian architectural project," the Cuban National Art Schools.
- Hawthorne's Reading L.A. revisits Hines's 1982 Neutra tome: his effort to connect Neutra's story with his contemporaries "is in the end what gives the book its heft and satisfying scope."
- A year ago, drawings of a turn-of-the-century Tampa master were found in hundreds of tubes in an attic; now much is on view in "The Built, The Lost, The Dream: The Architecture of M. Leo Elliott."

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Public projects leaving architects out: After Lee Jong-ho submitted his design for the Yi Sun-sin Memorial Hall...the design was changed and the building completed without him...he was unable to object because of a Korean law that says that architects who design public buildings cannot participate in the construction process if...budget [is] more than 10 billion won (\$9.2 million).- JoongAng Daily (Korea)

Xeroxed Village: Chinese Secretly Copy Austrian UNESCO Town: An idyllic Austrian village has apparently impressed Chinese architects so much that they have decided to copy it in their own country. But the townspeople living in the UNESCO World Heritage site are unhappy about the plans. [slide show] - Der Spiegel (Germany)

On Exhibition: The glassy new buildings along the High Line create spectators — looking in both directions...These days, it's almost rude not to stare. By Justin Davidson -- Neil Denari; Shigeru Ban; Frank Gehry; Jean Nouvel [image, video] - New York Magazine

Zaha Hadid's Serpentine Sackler Gallery approved: ...will see the restoration and extension of the Grade II listed Magazine building in Kensington Gardens, giving 900 sq m of gallery and social spaces, as well as a new restaurant. -- Gross Max [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Diébédo Francis Kéré Imbues Mud With Poetry, And Gives Africans A Future: African-born architect gets big results by mixing a little mud with a lot of heart...The landlocked West African country of Burkina Faso is one of the poorest places on the planet...What it has is mud. And rarely...has that homely element been used to such remarkable effect. By Linda Tischler [images, links] - Fast Company

Shortlisted architectural firms for Stage II in Bogotá International Convention Center Competition: The winner will be announced in the first week of August 2011. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro/UdeB; Saucier Perrotte Architectes; Snohetta/RIR; Zaha Hadid Architects/JMPF; Bermúdez & Herreros Architects - Bogota International Convention Center

Forgotten Spaces finalists revealed: Firepits, climbing tunnels and a giant golden frame: the RIBA has unveiled the shortlisted projects in the London and Sheffield Forgotten Spaces competitions [link to images, info] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Solving the Real Estate Crisis with Parks: Mike Messner is the primary force behind the budding "Redfields to Greenfields" movement, which has been picked up by more than 10 major cities in the U.S. The basic idea is to turn toxic real estate into parks, elevating nearby property values...the "next bold parks project"...could be aggregating smaller spaces into inter-connected parks and using abandoned buildings to fill out these spaces.- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Urban green space recommended to combat climate change effects: Research by Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)...advised developers, planners and landowners to explore opportunities for converting more urban land to grow food, installing green roofs and creating temporary parks or wildlife areas where development has stalled.- HorticultureWeek (UK)

London loses gardens to paving: London's gardens are being lost at a rate of two and a half Hyde Parks a year, a pioneering study published today has revealed. The report, London: Garden City? shows that on average, 500 gardens or parts of gardens were lost to development per annum.... - HorticultureWeek (UK)

"GLIMPSES of New York and Amsterdam in 2040": The future of two of the world's greatest cities is on display at Center for Architecture in New York, in collaboration with Amsterdam Center for Architecture (ARCAM)...10 'glimpses' of the urban future...provide the basis for asking the right questions from the right people... -- dlandstudio; Interboro Partners; Solid Objectives - Idenburg Liu (SO-IL); W Architecture & Landscape Architecture; WORKac; Barcode Architects; DELVA andscape Architects / Dingeman Deijis Architect; Fabrications; Space & Matter; van Bergen Kolpa [images, links] - Inhabitat

The Dry Garden: "New Park Design in Los Angeles" dreams of a city turning back the clock: It seems inevitable that a modern remedy to an 81-year-old wrong...originally targeted by the Olmsted brothers and Harland Bartholomew. This show tells us that it will also involve spaces that few could have imagined as parks in the 1930s. -- Stephen Billings/Pamela Burton & Co. Landscape Architecture; James Corner Field Operations; Mia Lehrer; Michael Maltzan [images] - Los Angeles Times

"The Good Cause: Architecture of Peace" at the Canadian Centre for Architecture: ...explores the creation of lasting peace through architecture and planning projects designed to...rebuild cities and territories devastated by armed conflict...questions whether reconstruction can be an instrument of peace and conflict prevention... -- Architecture for Humanity; Anne Feenstra/AFIR Architects; Noero Wolff Architects; Killian Doherty/J Smart; Suad Amiry - Canadian Architect

"\$H!T HAPPENS In Berlin": an innovative travelling exhibit curated by Juergen Mayer H....explores the aesthetic and technical innovations of creatives in the city...The unexpected is the norm; trials and errors, miscalculations and failures, experimentation and surprise...on view starting June 17 in the Toronto showroom of Relative Space & Floorworks - Canadian Architect

National Design That's Hidden in Plain Sight: "The American Style: Colonial Revival and the Modern Metropolis" at the Museum of the City of New York shows the impact of Colonial Revival on the nation's design...Though this is a small exhibition, there is much to see and think about. By Edward Rothstein [images] - New York Times

Scott Sutherland School of Architecture Show 2011 through June 30: ...students in Alan Dunlop's unit are not allowed to use computers...They must sketch, draw by hand and make models, quite a radical idea for a school of architecture in the 21st Century but it has resulted in some beautiful work and drawings and worth seeing. [images] - e-architect (UK)

Meet the 2011 LA Film Festival Filmmakers | Alys Nahmias' and Benjamin Murray's "Unfinished Spaces": Your movie: In 140 characters or less, what's it about? "Castro invites three exiled architects to return to Cuba to finish their Utopian architectural project [Cuban National Art Schools], which the Revolution left to ruin." OK: Now tell us what it's really about,,, -- Ricardo Porro; Vittorio Garatti; Roberto Gottardi - indieWIRE

Reading L.A.: Thomas Hines' 1982 book "Richard Neutra and the Search for Modern Architecture"...effort to connect Neutra's story with those of Irving Gill, Louis Sullivan, Wright and younger figures such as Harwell Hamilton Harris and Gregory Ain...is in the end what gives the book its heft and satisfying scope. The complex relationship between Neutra and Rudolph Schindler...is explored in real depth... By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

Time lines: "The Built, The Lost, The Dream: The Architecture of M. Leo Elliott"...For more than two decades, Elliott's extensive archives, stored in hundreds of tubes, were in the attic of a South Tampa engineering firm...on view at Tampa Regional Artists. -- Carastro & Associates - Tampa Tribune (Florida)

You Survived: Introduction: Your Firm Survived the Recession - Now Foster a Thriving a Practice. By Michael S. Bernard, AIA, and Nancy Kleppel, Assoc. AIA - ArchNewsNow



Zaha Hadid Architects: Riverside Museum of Transport, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

